

Appl. No. 10/731,078
Amdt. dated Feb. 9, 2005
Reply to Office action of Nov. 12, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 12, 2004, claims 8 and 9 were allowed and claims 14, 15 and 26-29 were rejected. With this Amendment, claim 14 is amended and claims 26-29 are cancelled.

In the Office Action, claims 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the first line of claim 14 was inadvertently left out of the Amendment mailed on September 7, 2004. Claim 14 is amended herewith to re-insert the first line. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 14 and 15 are allowable.

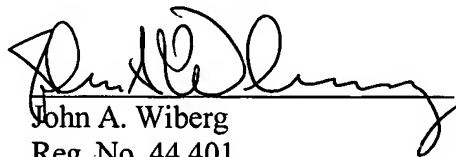
Also in the Office Action, claims 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takabatake (5,463,340). While Applicant does not necessarily agree with this rejection, claims 26-29 are cancelled herewith to expedite the allowance of claims 8, 9, 14 and 15.

Applicant requests allowance of claims 8, 9, 14 and 15.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: February 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Wiberg
Reg. No. 44,401
Attorney for applicant

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 W. Madison, Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000